

Remarks

Claims 17-19, and 21-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Klauke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,823,391) in view of Brewster (U.S. Patent No. 5,888,598) or Klauke in view of Brewster and further in view of McGhie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,011,968).

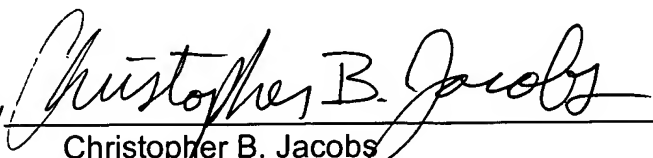
Claim 17 has been amended for clarity, and new claim 32 has been added to further define the biaxially expanding step as including stretch forming the tube body preform in a longitudinal direction and expanding the tube body preform in a transverse direction using a pressurized expansion gas and discharging the pressurized expansion gas after the expanding step.

The Klauke patent is based on application that was filed on September 4, 1996. The present application claims the benefit of a German patent application (German Patent Application No. 196 17 349.3) that was filed on April 30, 1996. A verified translation of that German priority application is being filed concurrently herewith to remove Klauke from the prior art for this application.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or item referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date:

31 July 2006

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